

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The lipophilic matrix consists of substances selected from unsaturated or hydrogenated alcohols or fatty acids, salts, esters or amides thereof, fatty acids mono-, di- or ~~triglycerides~~ triglycerides, the polyethoxylated derivatives thereof, waxes, ceramides, cholesterol derivatives or mixtures thereof having a melting point within the range of 40 to 90°C, preferably from 60 to 70°C.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--According to an embodiment of the invention, an amphiphilic matrix with high content in active ingredient, typically from 5 to 95% w/w, is first prepared by dispersing the active ingredient or the mixture of active ingredients in a mixture of amphiphilic compounds, such as lecithin, other type II polar lipids, surfactants, or in diethylene glycol monoethyl ether; the resulting amphiphilic matrix is then mixed or kneaded, usually while hot, with lipophilic compounds suitable to form an inert matrix, such as saturated or unsaturated fatty acids, such as palmitic, stearic, myristic, lauric, laurylic, or oleic acids or mixtures thereof with other fatty acids with shorter chain, or

salts or alcohols or derivatives of the cited fatty acids, such as mono-, di-, or ~~triglycerids~~ triglycerides or esters with polyethylene glycols, alone or in combination with waxes, ceramides, cholesterol derivatives or other apolar lipids in various ratios so that the melting or softening points of the lipophilic compounds mixtures is within the range of 40 to 90°C, preferably from 60 to 70°C.—